

Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Inner North West Area Committee

Date: 13th December 2007

Subject: Neighbourhood Improvement Areas Update

<p>Electoral Wards Affected:</p> <p>Headingley Hyde Park & Woodhouse Kirkstall Weetwood</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)</p>	<p>Specific Implications For:</p> <p>Equality and Diversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Community Cohesion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
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<p>Council Function <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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Executive Summary

This report provides Members with an update on the Little London & Woodhouse Neighbourhood Management initiative, and also provides details of work which has been undertaken on Neighbourhood Improvement Plans in other areas across the Inner North West.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In June 2006 Members were asked to identify neighbourhoods within their wards that they felt could benefit from a multi-agency focused improvement plan.
- 1.2 Members agreed that a programme of improvements be developed to tackle neighbourhood issues at a local level in the following areas:
 - ↖ Harold & Thornvilles – Headingley
 - ↖ Little London & Woodhouse – Hyde Park & Woodhouse
 - ↖ Hawksworth Wood – Kirkstall
 - ↖ Silk Mills - Weetwood

2.0 Neighbourhood Management Activities in Little London & Woodhouse

- 2.1 In April 2006, an Intensive Neighbourhood Management (INM) scheme was developed for Little London and Woodhouse, aiming to deliver a range of service delivery improvements focusing on crime, grime, health, education and employment. Funding for the scheme came from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) and the Safer, Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF).
- 2.2 A Neighbourhood Improvement Plan for the area has been developed, and delivery of the plan is monitored by two multi-agency partnership groups covering Crime and Grime, and Health, Education and Employment.
- 2.3 The Little London and Woodhouse INM scheme has funded a number of projects that will deliver against key actions and priorities from the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan. Below is a list of the main projects supported, and a brief outline of recent achievements.
- 2.4 *Neighbourhood Co-ordination*
The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator monitors the projects funded by the scheme, and works with partners to develop joint actions to deliver against the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan. A newsletter highlighting the projects supported by INM was recently delivered to all households in the area.
- 2.5 *Intensive Family Support*
The intensive family support worker helps families with children at risk of exclusion from school. Parents are encouraged to access training such as parenting classes or employment support, and young people are offered diversionary activities or an alternative curriculum to keep them in formal education.
- 2.5.1 Last month young people, supported by the intensive family support worker, went on a trip to London to attend a premiere of a film highlighting the dangers of gang membership.
- 2.5.2 One parent supported by the worker has recently gained employment as a healthcare assistant.
- 2.6 *Health Activities Worker*
Active 4 Life employ a part time worker to deliver a range of activities in the area to promote healthy choices. Over the last quarter, a mile a day path has been constructed around Little London Primary School, and a weekly tea time club teaches parents and their children how to prepare healthy meals on a budget.
- 2.7 *Drugs and Alcohol Outreach*
BARCA Leeds currently visit the area twice a week to provide one to one support for residents affected by alcohol and drugs misuse. In the last quarter, 35 individuals received support.
- 2.8 *Youthpoint Sexual Health Work*
Youthpoint have been commissioned to deliver activities for young people, specifically working to educate on issues surrounding sexual health. The Youthpoint workers run weekly drop in sessions and undertake outreach work to tackle anti-social behaviour. Between July and October, Youthpoint worked with over 40 young people, more than double their target for the quarter.

- 2.9 *Breakers Unify*
Breakers Unify run break dancing classes for children over 8 years of age. They have over 40 members, and held a number of showcase demonstrations at community and youth events during the summer. Breakers Unify management have also set up a weekly drop in for young people based at Beulah Hall in Woodhouse. It has attracted young people who have traditionally not accessed formal youth provision in the area.
- 2.10 Other projects supported by the INM scheme include a dedicated Streetscene team for the neighbourhood, funding for additional police patrols and a £5,000 healthy activities fund that provided grants to community organisations.
- 2.11 The INM area has also been awarded £84,700 capital funding through Cleaner, Safer Greener fund. Nine schemes have been identified to benefit from this funding, including improvements to greenspaces, fencing to prevent commuter parking on Blackman Lane and noticeboards for community use. Work on the majority of schemes will begin before Christmas, with all projects completed by March 2008.
- 2.12 The Neighbourhood Renewal element of the INM funding comes to an end in March 2008, and information on the 2008/09 SSCF revenue allocation and other government funding schemes are expected in early December. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator is working closely with projects to identify possible funding opportunities to continue delivering services in the area.

3.0 Development of Improvement Plans

- 3.1 Work has commenced on the development of plans and attached at Appendix 1 and 2 respectively, are draft action plans for Weetwood and Kirkstall NIP areas. These plans have been drawn up in agreement with Ward Members and local service providers, looking at the key issues and problems in the area and how they can be resolved.
- 3.2 The actions within the Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIPs) are co ordinated through North West Area Management. The Area Committee will be kept updated on progress against the action plans.

4.0 Main issues

- 4.1 It should be noted that each NIP will be different and the actions leading out of the plans will vary. The number of actions, the type of issues that need addressing and the length of time required to resolve them will be dependant on the needs of the particular area. The following is a summary of the current position in each of the four NIP areas.

4.2 Harold & Thornvilles – Headingley

- 4.2.1 A Community Action Day was held at the Cardigan Centre on Saturday 17th November. The aim of the event was to provide an opportunity for residents to comment on what they liked and disliked about the area and suggest what they would like the £2,000, which the Area Committee has approved for this area, to be spent on.

4.2.2 The event included; a 'drop-in' session between 10.00 and 12.30 with officers from West Yorkshire Police, Streetscene Services and Area Management in attendance. Information packs were distributed house to house prior to the drop-in, these included information on an improvement scheme for Alexander Park, details of key planning sites in the area (including Royal Park), a handout on local community facilities for hire and a perception survey. There was a disappointing turnout on the day with only a few residents attending.

4.2.3 From the information obtained at the event and through information received in the household surveys, a Neighbourhood Improvement Plan will be produced. It is intended that a copy of the plan will be mailed out to all households in the NIP area. A follow up event will be organised in February/March 2008, at which updates on the actions will be relayed to residents and feedback sought.

4.2.4 Below is a list of other activities which took place week commencing 12th November and over the weekend of the 16th and 17th November:

- ↖ Three skips were provided by the Inner Area Committee for use by local residents.
- ↖ Packs containing anti-crime and fire safety information were delivered to every house within the NIP area.
- ↖ Household surveys were hand delivered to every property asking for residents views of the area and what improvements they would like to see.
- ↖ A 'graffiti blitz' of the area was undertaken by City Services graffiti team.
- ↖ Streetscene services carried out an environmental audit.
- ↖ Enforcement officers carried out work tackling issues around trade waste and conducted compliance visits to off licenses, takeaways and restaurants.

4.3 **Hawksworth Wood – Kirkstall**

An initial meeting has been held with Members and community representatives to discuss issues in the area and an action plan has been drafted. Area Management are currently progressing these actions with service providers.

4.4 **Silk Mills – Weetwood**

A meeting is being arranged with Members to discuss methods of consultation, this could include a household survey and possibly a community event. Potential project ideas on how to spend the £2,000 Well-being funding will also be discussed.

4.4.1 A meeting is to be held in January 2008 with Weetwood Members and the Community Development Manager from Libraries, to discuss provision at Ireland Wood Library and promoting library services across the area.

5.0 **Implications For Council Policy And Governance**

5.1 The NIP work will work towards the Council's corporate aim of 'Narrowing the Gap', attempting to raise the standard of services within some of the most disadvantaged communities in the area.

6.0 **Recommendations**

6.1 Members are requested to note and comment on the contents of the report.